में "इम्बेलेन्सेज इन टेक्नीकल एजुकेशन आइडेन्टीफाइड" शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि देश में दी जा रही तकनीकी शिक्षा देश की प्रौद्योगिकी आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने में अपर्याप्त सिद्ध हुई है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने स्थिति को सुधारने हेतु भावी कदम उठाने का निर्णय किया है ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री पी० शिवशंकर) : (क) से (ग) जी, हां। देश में पिछले कुछ वर्षों में विभिन्न राज्यों में तकनीकी शिक्षा के विकास में उचित समन्वय के अभाव के कारण तकनीकी शिक्षा पद्धति में कुछ असंतुलन उत्पन्न होकर सामने आये हैं। अन्य कारणों में जनशक्ति संबंधी आवश्यकताओं की अपर्याप्त सूचना, प्रौद्योगिकी पूर्वानुमान के लिये तंत्र का अभाव, और सामाजिक तथा अन्य महत्वपूर्ण दबावों पर आधारित संस्थाओं/कार्यक्रमों की संस्थापना शामिल है। जब कि बहुलक (पोलिमर,) इंजीनियरी डिजाइन, संगणक विज्ञान और सूक्ष्म इलैक्ट्रानिकी जैसे कुछ उभरते हुये क्षेत्रों में उच्च प्रशिक्षित इंजीनियरों/प्रौद्योगिकी विदों की कमी है, वहां पर सीविल, यांत्रिकी और विद्युत इंजीनियरी जैसे कुछ परम्परागत क्षेत्रों में उनकी संख्या अतिरिक्त है।

(घ) और (ङ) : इस स्थिति में सुधार करने के लिये, अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद को देश भर में तकनीकी शिक्षा की समेकित आयोजना, प्रोन्नति और विनियमन के लिये सांविधिक अधिकार दिये गये हैं। अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद अधिनियम, 1987 के कार्य ढांचे के अन्तर्गत राज्य सरकारों और तकनीकी शिक्षा की संस्थाओं को अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद के मानदंडों और मार्गदर्शी रूपरेखाओं को पूरा करने के लिये सही उपाय करने हेतु एक अवसर दिया गया है।

Acquisition of ships by private sector

* 127. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) whether, with the sharp rise in the prices of ships, the private sector in the country .is not likely to acquire the requisite number of ships;

(b) if so, what is the number of ship acquisition proposals approved by Government and the number of ships likely to fall short of acquisition;'

(c) what is the nature of the assistance financial or otherwise given by Government to the private shipping industry in its acquisition programme; and

(d) whether Government propose to have any package programme to help the shipping industry in the private sector; if so. what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The increase in cost of ships has also been accompanied by increase in freight rates and there is no clear evidence that the viability of investment in this sector has been adversely affected. Increased prices, however, require higher initial investment which causes difficulties.

126 ship acquisition proposals have been approved by the Government since 1-4-19(87. It is not possible to estimate any shortfall in the acquisition of ships as most private ship-

ping companies are actively pursuing the acquisition proposals approved by the Government.

(c) and (d) The Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Ltd. provides loans to private sector shipping companies at subsidised rate of interest. Guidelines framed by Government with the help of Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited for rehabilitation of viable private sector shipping companes, include moratorium on repayment of loans, interest holiday for a limited period, rescheduling the repayment of loans etc. these measures would help potentially viable shipping companies.

Trains between Mysore and Bangalore

•128. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY; Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the trains between Mysore and Bengalore are presently taking long time;

(b) whether there is any proposal to streamline the running time of these trains; and

(c) whether a non-stop train between Mysore and Bangalore is likely to be introduced in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCIND7A): (a) and and (b) There is some increase in journey time due to ongoing Broad Gauge conversion work on the section.

(c) No, Sir. .

IndouPak talks

•129. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATH,;
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) what is the schedule for holding the series of meetings between Defence, Home and Foreign Secretaries of India and. Pakistan and that of Joint Commission;

(b) what would be the likely agenda therefor; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay in holding these official meetings originally scheduled to start earlier this year?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SHRI (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO); (a) to (c) The Joint Commission meeting is scheduled for some time in July 1989. The other Secretary-level meetings are evisaged during the next eight weeks. All these will be held during the first half of 1989 as agreed during the meeting between our Prime Minister and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The Joint Commission is expected to - identify areas of cooperation in the fields of trade, economic cooperation, education, culture, information, sports, travel, tourism and consular matters. Defence Secretary, Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary level talks will focus on Siachen, the problem of terrorism, and bilateral and other issues respectively.

Constitution of Literacy Mission Authority

•130. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: 'Will the Minister of HUMAN -RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT b° -pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by Government to assess the present status of illiteracy in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what was the number of illiterates in *the* country at the end of 1937 and 1988;

(d) whether Government have constituted Literacy Mission Authority to